

**RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND**

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**For year ending 31st December, 1968**



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

**ANNUAL REPORT**

1968

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND THE REPORT OF THE

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

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**Officials of the Public Health Department**

*Medical Officer of Health:*

Dr. F. SEYMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Middlewich, Northwich and Winsford Urban and Northwich and Runcorn Rural District Councils and Divisional Medical Officer to the mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions.

*Public Health Inspectors*

*Chief:* A. DUCKWORTH, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H., Smoke Inspector's Diploma.

*Deputy Chief:* R. L. WILSON, M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H., Smoke Inspector's Diploma.

*Additional:* A. C. BARKER, R.S.H.

## Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

*Chairman of the Council:*

Councillor C. DAVIES, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

Councillor Mrs. M. B. SHERLOCK,

Councillor Miss M. A. BLACK

„ T. CLARE

„ Dr. D. P. DUFFIELD

„ G. H. DUTTON

„ W. T. A. FOSTER

„ G. R. GRAY

„ C. J. HELSBY

„ C. S. HOWARD

„ S. J. HIND

„ A. T. JAMESON

„ L. JONES

„ J. LOOKER

„ A. PARR

„ P. J. POLLARD

„ G. E. POVEY

(Chairman of the Public Health Committee)

„ Miss M. J. PREECE, M.B.E.B.A., C.C.

„ S. G. ROSE

„ F. R. SHERLIKER, A.R.I.C., M.R.S.H.

„ C. K. SUMNER

„ F. E. WATSON

„ S. WILLIAMS

„ R. C. WOODS

### Officers:

*Clerk, Solicitor and Chief Executive Officer:* T. J. LEWIS

*Engineer and Surveyor:* H. A. HUMPHERY, C.Eng., M.I.Mun.E.

*Treasurer:* C. N. GREEN

# CONTENTS

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	<i>Page</i>
List of Staff	1
List of Councillors	2
Introduction	5

## SECTION A

1	Comparative General Statistics—1967/68	6
2	Vital Statistics (Live Births, Still Births, Deaths, etc.)	6
3	Infant Mortality	7
4	Deaths	7
5	Causes of Death during the year 1968	7
6	Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases, 1968	8

## SECTION B

1	Water	9
2	Drainage and Sewage	9
3	Relief of Flooding	10
4	Public Cleansing	10
5	Civic Amenities Act 1967	10
6	Summary of Inspections and Visits	11
7	Clean Air Act, 1956	
	Section 1—Prohibition of Dark Smoke	12
	Section 3—Requirements Relating to New Furnaces	12
	Section 5—Requirements that Grit and Dirt from Furnaces shall be minimised	13
	Section 10—Height of Chimneys	13
	Section 11—Smoke Control Areas	13
	Investigation of Air Pollution	14
	Graph—Measurement of Insoluble Matter—Weston	15
8	Noise Nuisance	14
9	New Development	16
10	Swimming Baths	16
11	Vermin and Insect Pests	17
12	Rodent Control	17



## SECTION C

### HOUSING:

*Page*

1	Housing—Statistics	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
2	Slum Clearance	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
3	Housing Waiting List	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
4	Improvement of Houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	19

## SECTION D

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

1	(A) Milk Supply	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
	(B) Milk Sampling	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
	(C) Raw Milk Supplies	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
2	Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 and 1965	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
3	Ice Cream Sampling	....	....	....	....	....	....	20

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

1	(A) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, Sections 16 and 19	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
	(B) Inspection of Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
	(C) Deep Frozen Chickens	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
	(D) Unsound Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
	(E) Poultry Inspection	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
2	Adulteration of Food	....	....	....	....	....	....	23

## SECTION E

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963:

1	General	....	....	....	....	....	....	24
2	Accidents	....	....	....	....	....	....	25

ANNEX to Annual Report—Administration of Factories Act, 1961	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	----

APPENDIX “A”—Annual Report 1968 Divisional Medical Officer of Health (Runcorn Division)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
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## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

*Telephone No.:*  
Runcorn 2261

Town Hall,  
Runcorn.

July, 1969.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Runcorn Urban District Council

Dear Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1968.

For the information of members I enclose my Annual Report to the Divisional Health Committee.

I would once again like to express my appreciation to Mr. Duckworth, the Staff of the Public Health Department and the Council's Chief Officers for their co-operation and help during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. SEYMOUR,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A—General and Vital Statistics

### 1 COMPARATIVE GENERAL STATISTICS—1967/68

				<i>Year</i>	
				1967	1968
Population (estimated mid-year)	....			30,374	30,890
Area (Acres of District)	....	....		8,036	8,036
Rateable Value	....	....	....	£1,507,617	£1,589,645
Product of Penny Rate (estimated)	....			£6,252	£6,556
Estimated number of inhabited dwellings	....	....	....	10,137	10,492

### 2 VITAL STATISTICS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Comparable Figures England &amp; Wales</i>
<i>Live Births</i>							
Legitimate	....	....	....	279	246	525	
Illegitimate	....	....	....	17	20	37	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
				296	266	562	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population					18.2		
*Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.82)				....	18.0		16.9
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births				....	6.6		
				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
STILL BIRTHS	....	....	....	3	3	6	
LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	....			299	269	568	
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still-Births				....	11		14

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	8	3	11
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	1	1



### 3 INFANT MORTALITY

		<i>Comparable Figures England &amp; Wales</i>
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	21	18
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) per 1,000 total live births ....	19.6	12.3
Early neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week) per 1,000 total live births ....	17.8	10.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births) ....	28	25
Maternal Mortality (including abortion) ....	Nil	—

### 4 DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
All Causes ....	195	170	365	
Death Rate per 1,000 population ....				11.8
*Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.50) ....				14.9
				11.9

\**Note:* The corrected birth rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

### 5 TOTAL DEATHS 1968

<i>Causes of deaths</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases ....		1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....		1	—
Other Tuberculosis, including late effects ....		1	1
Meningococcal Infection ....		1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach ....		6	11
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ....		16	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast ....		—	9
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus ....		—	4
Leukaemia ....		—	1

Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.....	....	....	15	16
Diabetes Mellitus	....	....	1	2
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	....	....	1	3
Anaemias	....	....	1	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	....	....	5	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	....	....	2	1
Hypertensive Disease	....	....	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	....	....	58	37
Other forms of Heart Disease	....	....	8	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	....	....	22	31
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	....	....	9	9
Influenza	....	....	1	1
Pneumonia	....	....	5	12
Bronchitis and Emphysema	....	....	13	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	....	....	3	—
Peptic Ulcer	....	....	2	1
Appendicitis	....	....	1	—
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	....	....	—	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	....	....	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	....	....	—	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	....	2	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	....	....	1	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	....	....	3	—
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	....	....	—	2
Congenital Anomalies	....	....	3	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	....	....	3	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	....	....	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	....	....	1	1
All other Accidents....	....	....	3	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	....	....	1	1
Totals	....	....	195	170

*Infectious and Other Diseases—Statistics*

6 INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
1968

	1968	1967
Measles	374	304
Scarlet Fever	51	49
Whooping Cough	5	14
Tuberculosis	2	3

## SECTION B

### Sanitary Circumstances

#### 1 *Water Supply*

Supplied by Runcorn and District Water Board, Town Hall, Runcorn. Telephone No.: Runcorn 2261.

The water supply consists of water from Lake Vyrnwy and the River Dee aqueducts of Liverpool Corporation with the exception of Moore, Sutton Weaver and a certain number of houses and farms which are supplied by Warrington Corporation and a number of farms which have a private supply.

<i>No. of Samples of Water taken during the year for Bacteriological examination</i>				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Vyrnwy	....	....	....	10	3
Dee	....	....	....	12	—
Private sources	....	....	....	2	—

Follow up samples of the 3 unsatisfactory Vyrnwy water samples were found to be satisfactory.

				<i>Vyrnwy Water</i>	<i>Dee Water</i>
<i>Quantity</i>	....	....	....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
<i>Quality</i>	....	....	....	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
<i>Plumbo-Solvent Action</i>	....	....	....	None	None
<i>*Lead Determination after 16 hr.</i>					
<i>contact period</i>	....	....	....	Less than 0.1 parts per million	Less than 0.1 parts per million
<i>P.H. Value</i>	....	....	....	7.6	7.5
<i>No. of dwelling houses via mains to taps</i>				10,492	
<i>Dwellings served by stand pipes</i>				NIL	NIL

\*Samples of water were taken from areas where there are lead feed-pipes. These samples were taken to ascertain the concentration of lead in the water supply after a period of contact with the lead pipe. The limit of lead concentration recommended by the World Health Organisation after 16 hours contact is 0.3 parts per million.

#### 2 *Drainage and Sewerage*

Comments have been made in past years about the unsatisfactory discharge of untreated sewage into the River Mersey and the chance to re-design the sewerage system of the old parts of the town in conjunction with the lay-out of the sewerage system for the New Town. Some progress has been made, and the length of trunk sewer from the existing Highfield Works to the new sewerage works at Astmoor has been laid. The Council has agreed to pay a contribution for a larger sewer in order that their future requirements can be met. When the new sewage works is opened in 1969 the foul sewage of the New Town housing and industrial estates will be treated thereat and plans are being made for the Council's own system to be connected to it at an early date.



### 3 *Relief of Flooding in Moughland Lane, Oxford Road and Hinton Road*

A scheme has been prepared by Consultants and approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government for the relief of flooding which occurs in storm conditions in the area of Moughland Lane, Oxford Road and Hinton Road. Contract documents are being prepared for this scheme at an estimated cost of £64,530.

### 4 *Public Cleansing*

The maintenance of a regular weekly refuse collection was never achieved during the year due to a labour dispute when the refuse collectors refused to accept a bonus scheme which would have provided the public with a 7-day collection. Improvement took place when the scheme first started but when the men rejected the scheme, collections fell alarmingly behind. It was never possible to maintain a full establishment due to failure to attract new men and continual absenteeism and sickness. Unless the problem can be solved the position remains critical and is further aggravated by new houses rapidly coming into occupation in the New Town areas. The sack system of collection is being extended to all the new houses of the Development Corporation with the use of plastic sacks and is working satisfactorily. This system of collection is cleaner and less arduous for the collectors and offers the best system for the future. It is hoped that these measures will make the job more attractive and thus ease the recruitment problem. Experiments are also being carried out with the use of plastic sacks as bin liners so that if successful the sack system could be introduced generally in the whole of the town at far less cost than a complete paper sack scheme.

### 5 *Civic Amenities Act, 1967*

The problem of indiscriminate dumping of refuse, etc., on vacant land is a continual headache and in an effort to stop this the Council's Refuse Tip at Stonehills Lane is open on weekdays from 8.30 a.m. to 7.0 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. for residents to dump any unwanted refuse at the Tip—free. This service is well used and appreciated by the public. Notice of the opening times of the Tip is published at regular intervals in the local press. Although dumping still occurs on vacant sites there has been some improvement in the position.

## Summary of Visits and Inspections

1. Unsound food	....	....	....	....	....	107
2. Bakeries	....	....	....	....	....	4
3. Cafes, canteens and restaurants	....	....	....	....	....	84
4. Food factories	....	....	....	....	....	33
5. Licensed premises	....	....	....	....	....	19
6. Market stalls	....	....	....	....	....	24
7. Food shops	....	....	....	....	....	114
8. Food vehicles	....	....	....	....	....	4
9. Food vending machines	....	....	....	....	....	1
10. Domestic water samples	....	....	....	....	....	15
11. Swimming bath samples....	....	....	....	....	....	6
12. Ice cream and lollies samples	....	....	....	....	....	31
13. Animal boarding establishments	....	....	....	....	....	1
14. Caravans	....	....	....	....	....	3
15. Complaints	....	....	....	....	....	252
16. Demolition of property	....	....	....	....	....	13
17. Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	354
18. Factories using mechanical power	....	....	....	....	....	14
19. Factories without mechanical power	....	....	....	....	....	2
20. Factory outworkers' premises	....	....	....	....	....	3
21. Building operations and works of engineering construction	....	....	....	....	....	10
22. Hairdressers	....	....	....	....	....	1
23. House inspections and revisits	....	....	....	....	....	290
24. Houses in multiple occupation	....	....	....	....	....	—
25. Improvement grants	....	....	....	....	....	28
26. Infectious disease investigations	....	....	....	....	....	91
27. Infectious disease surveillance	....	....	....	....	....	14
28. Interviews....	....	....	....	....	....	177
29. Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	266
30. Noise abatement	....	....	....	....	....	40
31. Nuisance abatement	....	....	....	....	....	140
32. Offices and shops....	....	....	....	....	....	231
33. Pet shops	....	....	....	....	....	11
34. Petroleum Acts	....	....	....	....	....	15
35. Places of Public Entertainment	....	....	....	....	....	28
36. Public conveniences	....	....	....	....	....	79
37. Scrap metal dealers	....	....	....	....	....	1
38. Smoke nuisance abatement	....	....	....	....	....	160
39. Smoke control areas	....	....	....	....	....	115
40. Air pollution survey	....	....	....	....	....	265
41. Refuse collection and disposal	....	....	....	....	....	671
42. Riding establishments	....	....	....	....	....	7
43. Rodent control	....	....	....	....	....	179
44. Tents and sheds	....	....	....	....	....	9
45. Vacant sites	....	....	....	....	....	18
46. Vermin and insect pests	....	....	....	....	....	91
47. Water supply	....	....	....	....	....	12
48. Administration	....	....	....	....	....	305
49. Work study	....	....	....	....	....	48
						4386



## 7 Clean Air Act, 1956

### SECTION 1—PROHIBITION OF DARK SMOKE FROM CHIMNEYS

Investigations into contraventions of The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 at one industrial premises continued from the previous year, and coal from alternative sources was tried without much success. The firm now proposes installing new boiler plant to double the present steam output with provision for a future third boiler to treble the steam production.

An incinerator used on the same premises without smokeless primary ignition or an afterburner was also observed omitting dark smoke continuously, and its use was terminated after the offence was brought to the firm's notice.

Increasing intermittent smoke emissions were observed from a chimney serving a hand-fired Lancashire boiler at other premises occupied by the same firm. In this case the firm were unwilling to incur expenditure on the provision of mechanical stoking as they were proposing to reduce their operations at these premises in 1969. As the run-down progresses, the demand on the boiler will decrease with a consequent reduction in the intermittent smoke emissions.

Observations of smoke emitted by a vessel pumping ashore sludge dredged from the River Weaver Canal revealed emissions of dark and black smoke for periods greater than those permitted by The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations 1958. As similar emissions had occurred in the past, a warning of legal proceedings was issued, and this, together with representations by the local firm hiring the plant, resulted in an assurance that all future dredging equipment would be oil-fired.

### SECTION 3—REQUIREMENT THAT NEW FURNACES SHALL BE SO FAR AS PRACTICABLE SMOKELESS.

Thirty-one notifications of proposal to install new furnaces were received. All were designed to operate continuously without emitting smoke so far as practicable, and were operating satisfactorily when installed.

## SECTION 5.—REQUIREMENT THAT GRIT AND DUST FROM FURNACES SHALL BE MINIMISED.

Complaints of a grit nuisance from a vertical cross-tube boiler coal-fired by a hopper model three-speed underfeed stoker were found to be justified and investigation revealed excessive air supply. The air supply was regulated with the use of instruments by the N.C.B.'s. Technical Services Department and this, together with the use of coal from an alternative source, produced a slight reduction in grit emission. However, further action was still found necessary and the provision of over-fire air jets was recommended to deflect the grit and aid its combustion by creating the necessary turbulence above the fire-bed.

## SECTION 10.—HEIGHT OF CHIMNEYS.

Seven plans deposited with the Council for approval under The Building Regulations showed the proposed construction of new chimneys. In one case, involving the proposals referred to under Section 1, an increase in height from the proposed 70 ft. to 100 ft. was found necessary having regard to the total future sulphur dioxide emission of the three boilers ultimately to be installed and the proximity of houses at a higher level than the proposed boiler house.

Proposals for the erection of seven chimneys were outside the control of Section 10. Five of the chimneys were at new schools, but these will be subject to future control from 1st April 1969 by Section 6 of the Clean Air Act, 1968, which repeals the present legislation as respects any chimney serving a furnace. There is also no longer any exemption, as there was in Section 10, for residences, shops or offices. The two remaining chimneys concerned one on Crown Premises and one erected at the instigation of this Department on premises controlled by the Alkali, etc. Works Regulation Act.

## SECTION 11.—SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

The assurance that steam locomotives would be replaced by diesels during 1968 was honoured by British Rail, resulting in the elimination of smoke on the severe gradient adjacent to Norman Road.

At present 3,705 (35.3% of the 10,492) domestic premises in the Urban District are smoke-controlled compared with 35—40% in the North Western "black areas" and 48% of England's total "black areas". Smoke control areas where conversions are now taking place will bring the number of premises covered by smoke control to over 50% by 1970. The Council's No. 4 Order was made and a public enquiry held following objections due to proposed road works necessitating the future demolition of certain houses in the area. This information was not known at the time the Order was made, and exemption in such cases will be simplified in future by power in the Clean Air Act,



1968 to bring into operation immediately on confirmation, or any time thereafter, a variation order exempting specified buildings. In other cases where the number of objectors is small, the Minister may afford the objectors an opportunity of being heard by a person appointed by him as an alternative to ordering a local enquiry. The No. 4 Order was subsequently confirmed with modification.

The Council's No. 5 Order was made in October, the area of 2,091 acres containing 731 dwellings mainly in the Halton Area which will eventually be surrounded by new housing development in Smoke Control Areas. This necessitated a deviation from the Smoke Control Programme to eliminate the central "grey" spot.

23 householders in existing areas were warned during the year about burning coal, an increase of 3 over the previous year, and further action was not found necessary. These offences were due mainly to one Liverpool coal merchant who, after being harassed in the absence of legislation prohibiting the sale of coal in Smoke Control Areas, resorted to supplying coal during the hours of darkness. On being reported to the Approved Coal Merchant's Scheme, the merchant was eventually warned by the Scheme's North Western Regional Panel as to his future conduct. The Clean Air Act 1968 now makes such conduct an offence subject to a maximum fine of £20.

A householder in No. 3 area warned about burning coal in December 1967 repeated the offence in May and was prosecuted and fined.

### *The Investigation of Air Pollution*

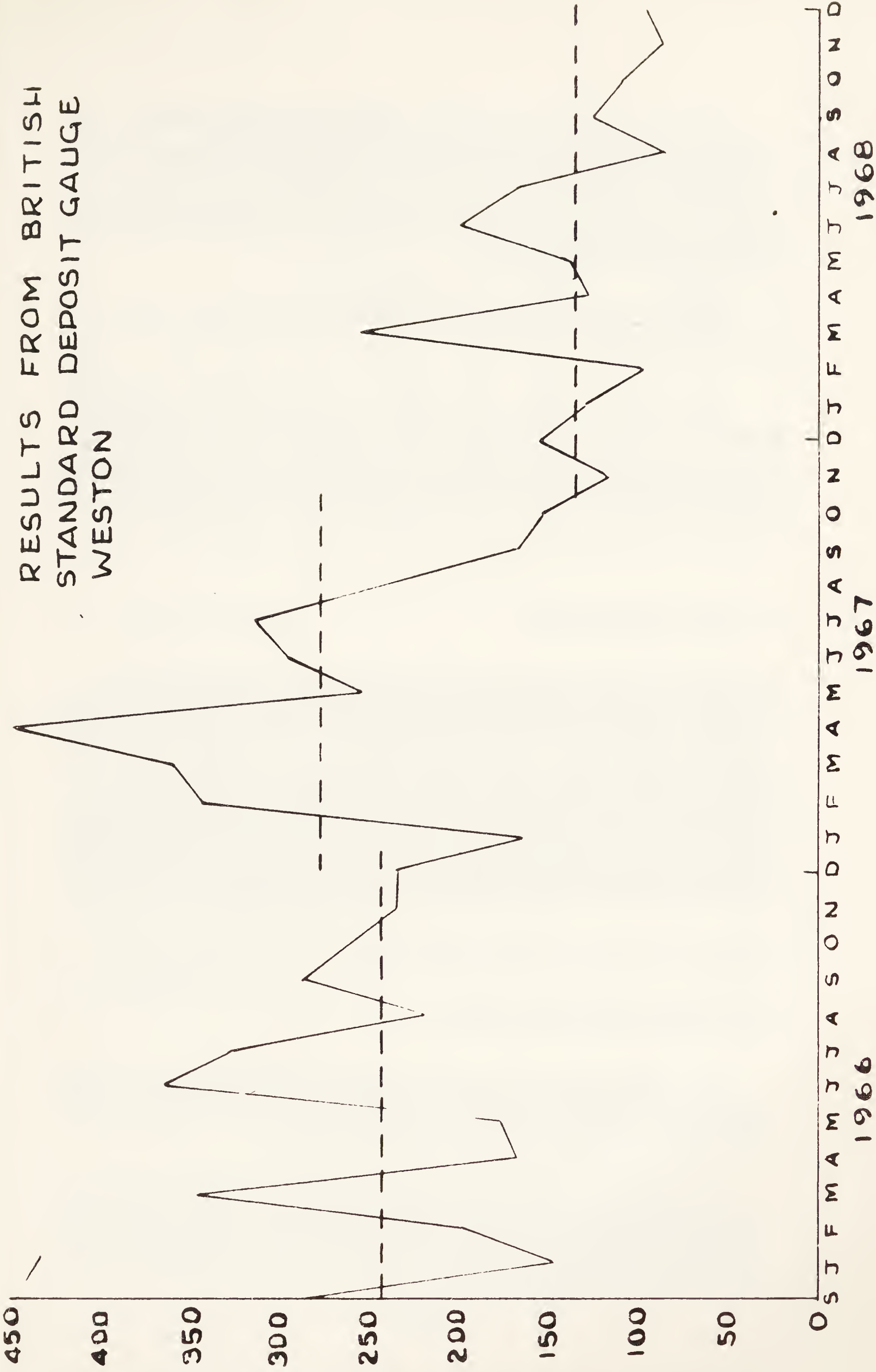
The 8-day volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide machine at Rocksavage Grange was transferred in October to Weston and results show that of the five monitoring stations, only Norton is cleaner than Weston, the order being Norton, Weston, Town Hall, Halton and the Public Library, Egerton Street.

The reduction in dust emission from the Carbide Plant at Weston is reflected in the results obtained from the British Standard Deposit Gauge sited at Weston to collect grit and dust. The average deposit for 1968 was 134.9 milligrammes per square metre per day, compared with double this figure, 277.3 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, for the 11 months prior to the installation of the textile bag filters in November 1967. The graph on page 15 illustrates the results obtained.

## **8 Noise Nuisance**

The noise nuisance problem from an industrial plant at Weston which had been a source of complaint by residents for some time, was eventually resolved by the plant being closed down due to engineering and other difficulties.

RESULTS FROM BRITISH  
STANDARD DEPOSIT GAUGE  
WESTON



TOTAL WATER INSOLUBLE MATTER  
(MILLIGRAMMES PER SQUARE METRE PER DAY)

The experience drawn from this complaint emphasises the need for planning control of new industries likely to give rise to noise nuisance. A maximum sound level reading on the boundary of the works should be specified which industry must comply with. It is still quite apparent that much more research needs to be carried out by industry into noise suppression and insulation.

Other complaints about noise have only been minor and satisfactorily dealt with.

With the large-scale development in road works etc., in Runcorn which is at present taking place, the opportunity has been taken to bring to the notice of all public works operators and contractors, the necessity for fitting silencers to pneumatic drills, and literature about the types of mufflers available for this purpose have been circulated.

## **9 New development**

54 of the plans deposited with the Council for Building Regulations approval concerned food premises, shops, offices of factories and required inspection to ensure compliance with the appropriate food hygiene, health, safety and welfare legislation and the provision of suitable refuse storage accommodation. The plans included those for Castlefields Local Centre and the Town Centre shopping and commercial offices. Liaison with architects was most frequently necessitated by inadequate or unsuitable ventilation and the proposed use of unsuitable structural finishes in food premises, shops and offices.

## **10 Public Swimming Baths**

The Urban District Council maintains a Public Swimming Bath. The mains water used is filtered and chlorinated. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Baths Superintendent.

Two chemical and 11 bacteriological samples of Bath's water were submitted for analysis and the Analyst reported that "The condition of the bath is satisfactory" with the exception of one sample of outlet water which was reported unsatisfactory.



11 Vermin and Insect Pests

The following cases were dealt with during the year:

	<i>Infested and disinfested</i>		
	<i>No. of Council Houses</i>	<i>No. of other Houses</i>	<i>No. of Business Premises</i>
Ants.... ..	19	7	1
Beetles .....	4	10	—
Bed Bugs .....	10	1	2
Cockroaches .....	5	3	4
Fleas .....	1	5	—
Silverfish .....	1	5	—
Wasp Nests .....	2	1	—
TOTAL .....	42	32	7

12 Rodent Control

661 inspections of premises were made during the year resulting in the treatment of 389 infestations of rats and 135 of mice, a reduction of 23.5% in the number of rat infestations from the previous year.

A test baiting is carried out annually in July using Warfarin poison on 10% of the manholes in the sewerage system to assess the extent of infestation by rats. Manholes found to be infested receive two treatments with the acute poison, sodium fluoracetamide. Twelve infested manholes compared with 36 in the previous year were treated, together with the adjoining manholes.

The results of the treatment indicate that the sewers in the town are reasonably free of rats.

## SECTION C

### 1 HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses in the Urban District, 31st						
December, 1968	....	....	....	....	....	10,492
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	....	....				1.3
Number of houses (new) erected during 1968:						
(a) by Local Authority	....	....	....	....		Nil
(b) by other bodies (including Runcorn Development Corporation)	....	....	....	....	....	392
Number of houses owned by Local Authority:						
Permanent	....	....	....	....	....	2,813
Prefabricated	....	....	....	....	....	52
General Fund	....	....	....	....	....	15

### 2 Unfit Houses Clearance Programme—Housing Act, 1957

Thirty-seven houses were demolished and four closed during the year.

Orders were made during the year in respect of eleven unfit houses.

Since the slum clearance programme was resumed after the war, 787 houses (including 28 pre-fabs) have been dealt with as unfit houses.

Unfortunately the 1966/1970 five-year clearance programme which provisionally comprises 478 houses is falling behind schedule due to the temporary halt in the Council's building programme. This is evidenced by the fact that only 11 houses were represented as unfit during the year. The approximate number of unfit houses which still remain to be dealt with in this programme is 360.

The Council's new house building programme which provides for the erection of 434 dwellings on Grange N.U. will enable the clearance programme to be accelerated.

It is necessary from time to time to survey the older houses to ascertain whether more houses have fallen below the Standard of Fitness as set out in Section 4, Housing Act 1957, but with the present staff, it is not possible to carry out this survey and obtain an up-to-date position of the number of unfit houses.

### 3 Housing Waiting List

In December 1968 the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses was 721.

The housing needs of the applicants were:

Old Age Pensioners	....	....	....	....	174
One Bedroom	....	....	....	....	67
Two Bedroom	....	....	....	....	293
Three Bedroom	....	....	....	....	162
Four Bedroom	....	....	....	....	24
Five Bedroom	....	....	....	....	1
					<hr/> 721 <hr/>

Of the 721 applicants 237 were without separate accommodation (lodgers) and 484 had separate accommodation (tenants, owner/occupiers).

### 4 Improvement of Houses

During the year, 22 Standard Grants and 1 Discretionary Grant have been made to owners for the provision of amenities to structurally sound houses. The rate of improvement of older fit houses by the provision of the five amenities, i.e., bath, indoor water-closet, wash-hand basin, hot water supply and ventilated food store is still very slow.

No representations were received from tenants with a view to the compulsory improvement of otherwise fit houses.

## SECTION D

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### 1 (a) Milk Supply

There are fifteen dairy farms in the area of the Urban District which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

One dairy in the area is licensed for the Pasteurisation of milk by the High Temperature Short-Time System.

#### (b) Milk Sampling

The following table indicates the Reports of the Analyst of samples taken by the County Council in the Urban District during the year 1968.

<i>Class of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Appropriate Tests</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	
			<i>Passed</i>	<i>failed</i>
Sterilised ....	7	Turbidity ....	7	—
Pasteurised ....	77	Phosphatase ...	17	—
		Methylene Blue ....	77	—
Untreated ....	7	Methylene Blue ....	5	2

#### (c) Raw Milk Supplies

No dairy herds in the district are licensed to sell raw milk to the public.

#### 2 The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963 and 1965

All dealers' licences under the above Regulations are issued by the Cheshire County Council, The Food and Drugs Authority for the area.

Sixty-one dealers' (pre-packed) milk licences were issued during the year.

#### 3 Ice Cream Samples

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>GRADES</i>			
		1	2	3	4
Ice Cream ....	15	9	4	0	2
Ice Cream Mix ....	5	4	0	1	0
Ice Lollies ....	4	Satisfactory			



The two unsatisfactory Grade 4 samples were manufactured outside the district and were referred to the appropriate Authority concerned. There are 75 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and 1 for the manufacture of ice-cream.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

**1 (a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, Sections 16 and 19**

<i>Type of Premises</i>	<i>No. in area</i>	<i>Section 16 No. fitted with wash- hand basins</i>	<i>Section 19 No. fitted with sinks</i>
Grocery ....	67	67	67
Greengrocery ....	14	12	13
Butchers ....	22	22	22
Fried Fish ....	12	12	12
Catering Establishments ....	25	25	25
Licensed Premises ....	41	41	41
Bakers and Confectioners ....	13	13	13
Sugar Confectioners ....	18	18	18
Food Factories ....	2	2	2

**(b) Inspection of Food Premises**

263 visits and inspections have been made to food premises and food vehicles and 24 notices under the Food Hygiene Regulations served in respect of re-decoration of premises, provision of hand-washing facilities, renewal of worn equipment, structural repairs, protection of open food and provision of First-Aid Materials.

One prosecution was instituted under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 (Part 3), Smoking when handling open food—a fine of £8 8s. with costs was imposed.



### (c) Deep Frozen Chickens

Because of the risks of poultry in common with other animals carrying food poisonous organisms, special attention has been given to the methods of the thawing, cooking and handling of deep frozen chickens in cafes and restaurants. Emphasis has been placed on adequate thawing of the chickens before cooking, thorough cooking and satisfactory conditions of storage while cooling before use. In addition, checks have been made on the adequacy of cooking and storage before sale of deep frozen chickens in a shop operating a Rotisserie. Temperature checks have been made on the chickens whilst cooking and stored before sale.

The weakness of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, governing the control of temperatures of certain meat and meat products in order to prevent the growth of organisms is well illustrated by the results of investigations carried out in these food premises where the Regulations as to temperature control do not apply where food is exposed for sale. Conditions still exist where foods which support bacterial growth such as cooked meats etc., are exposed for sale in windows of shops in the summer months. Such foods should be displayed under refrigerated conditions. The law needs urgent amendment to require this.

### New York Dressed Birds

Shops selling New York Dressed Birds (i.e. without evisceration) have been advised to have all birds eviscerated before they take delivery and their attention has been drawn to the dangers of contamination of open food by utensils, clothing etc., where certain open foods are also sold.

### (d) Unsound Food—Surrendered or Condemned

						<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat at Retail Shops	....	....	....	....		8		23
Cooked meat and meat products			....	....		1		54
Canned meats	....	....	....	....		—		101
Other Canned Foods	....	....	....	....		3		39
Other Foods	....	....	....	....		13		5
Total	....	....	....	....		1	6	100

### (e) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

## 2 Adulteration of Food

### List of Samples obtained in the RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT

during the Year Ended 31st December, 1968

The County Council Weights and Measures Inspector took 138 samples of varied articles of food in the Runcorn Urban District during the year. The following is a list of samples not up to standard and particulars of food complaints from private purchasers.

#### Particulars of Food Complaints from Private Purchasers

<i>No.</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Nature</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Housewife	Insect in jar of piccalilli	Bottlers fined £5. Costs £4 14s.
2.	Housewife	Hair in chocolate bar	Manufacturers cautioned.
3.	Housewife	Foreign matter in sliced loaf	Bakers cautioned.
4.	Housewife	Loaf of bread contaminated with mould	Bakers cautioned.
5.	Housewife	Ground almonds containing bitter flavour	Contained 400 parts per million of hydrocyanic acid. Packers cautioned.
6.	Housewife	Loaf containing small insect	No action.
7.	Cheshire County Council Childrens' Home	Loaf of bread containing a small fly	Bakers cautioned.
8.	Cheshire County Council Old Folks Home	Fruit loaf containing piece of metal	Sellers fined £30.

#### Particulars of Samples not up to Standard, 1968

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Milk	10% deficient in fat	Producer cautioned.

## SECTION E

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

#### 1 General

Ten new premises were registered during the year, bringing the total of the number of premises registered to 307.

During the year 77 premises received General Inspections and 227 visits were made to registered premises and occupiers were notified of a total of 239 contraventions.

The following table gives an analysis of the nature and number of contraventions of the Act discovered on inspection:

#### Analysis of Contraventions

<i>Section</i>	<i>No. of Contraventions found</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>No. of Contraventions found</i>
4 Cleanliness ....	20	13 Sitting Facilities ....	1
5 Overcrowding ....	0	14 Seats (Sedentary Workers) ....	0
6 Temperature ....	21	15 Eating facilities ....	1
7 Ventilation ....	8	16 Floors, Passages and Stairs ....	43
8 Lighting ....	12	17 Fencing exposed parts machinery ....	14
9 Sanitary Conveniences ....	46	18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery ....	0
10 Washing facilities ....	13	19 Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery ....	0
11 Supply of drinking water ....	0	23 Prohibition of heavy work ....	0
12 Clothing accommodation ....	3	24 First Aid ....	25
		Other matters....	32
		Total ....	239

The contraventions most frequently found related to the cleanliness of sanitary conveniences, floors, passages and stairs, first aid provision and working facilities.

Only one complaint was received from employees about the working conditions in Offices and Shops and this was in respect of inadequate heating in a shop but it was necessary to draw the attention of several occupiers of shops to inadequate heating facilities found at the time of inspection.

## 2 Accidents

During the year 10 accidents were reported as occurring in registered premises, four involving falls of persons and three due to handling goods.

It is satisfactory to report that no accidents were reported due to machinery which is a particular hazard in food shops where food-slicing machines are in use.

It is difficult to assess what proportion of accidents that occur on registered premises are in fact notified to the registering authority.

### PART I OF THE ACT

#### 1. INSPECTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspec- tions</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i> (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	6	2	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	88	14	2	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	14	10	—	—
TOTAL ....	108	26	2	—



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp'ature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drainage floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences: (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ....	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ....	2	2	—	—	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 133</i>			<i>Section 134</i>		
	<i>No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Curtains and furniture hanging ....	2	—	—	—	—	—



**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**REPORT**

**OF THE DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1968**

*May, 1969*

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

28 Halton Road,  
RUNCORN

**INTRODUCTION**

To: The Chairman and Members of the  
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Department during 1968.

The year has seen the appointment of an Area Nursing Officer responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Nursing Services in the Runcorn, mid-Cheshire and Nantwich Divisions and the delegation to the Divisional Medical Officer of the responsibility for co-ordinating the work of the members of the various sections of the County Health Department in the Division.

Due to illness amongst medical and administrative staff and the failure to fill the vacancy for an Occupational Therapist, 1968 was a difficult year and we did not achieve the improvement in some of the services that I had hoped for. Unfortunately, the vacancy for a medical officer remains unfilled, but the administrative and occupational therapist problems have been solved, and I look forward to expansion of our services, particularly in work for the physically handicapped.

Liaison with the other Health and Social services continues to improve and the bond should be even closer with the opening of the first of the new Health Centres, and proposed attachment of nursing staff to General Practitioners during the coming year.

I could not close this foreword without expressing my appreciation of the assistance given to me by Mr. Lewis and the Divisional Health staff, and thanking you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your support and interest.

I am,

Yours obediently,

F. SEYMOUR

Divisional Medical Officer

# INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Divisional Health Committee Members ....	30
Nurses and Midwives, addresses and districts ....	31
Clinic Centres ....	33
Clinic Attendances ....	35
Welfare Foods, distribution ....	36
Day Nursery ....	36
Cervical Smears ....	37
Infectious Diseases ....	38
Vaccination and Immunisation ....	39
Physically Handicapped: Services for	
Car Badges ....	41
Adaptations to Property ....	41
Care and After-Care (equipment issues) ....	42
Convalescent Treatment ....	42
Domestic Help Service ....	42
Chiropody Service ....	43
Mental Health Service ....	43

# RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

## List of Members, 1968/69

### *Chairman:*

Councillor Mrs. M. B. SHERLOCK

### *Deputy Chairman:*

Councillor Mrs. D. M. SMITH

### *Representing the County Council:*

County Alderman Sir GEORGE ASTBURY, West Wind, Strawberry Roundabout, Backford, nr. Chester.

County Councillor A. RICHARDSON, Bradshaw Hall Farm, Cheadle, Cheshire.

County Alderman H. MANN, 25 Park Road, Runcorn.

County Alderman A. E. MOORS, Thornlea, Station Lane, Mickle Trafford, Chester.

County Councillor Miss M. J. PREECE, M.B.E., 202 Halton Road, Runcorn.

County Councillor R. F. PAYTON, Park House, 177 London Road, Appleton, Warrington.

County Councillor G. J. FORD, Manley Hall Farm, Manley, Warrington.

### *Representatives of Runcorn Rural District Council:*

Councillor Mrs. M. BATE, Levens, York Drive, Grappenhall, Warrington.

Councillor F. Cooper, Sunny Hurst, Kingsley, Warrington.

Councillor W. EVANS, Oaklands, Primrose Lane, Alvanley, Warrington.

Councillor W. FOWLES, Dairy Farm, Newton Lane, Preston Brook, Warrington.

Councillor Mrs. J. C. JENKINS, 58 Grappenhall Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington.

Councillor J. F. JENKINS, 58 Grappenhall Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington.

Councillor P. MOUNFIELD, 342 London Road, Appleton, Warrington.

Councillor Mrs. D. M. SMITH, Thornhill, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Warrington.

Councillor S. WILLIAMS, Netherton Farm, Netherton, Frodsham, Warrington.

### *Representatives of Runcorn Urban District Council:*

Councillor C. DAVIES, 1 Mersey View, Weston Point, Runcorn.

Councillor W. T. A. FOSTER, 5 Six Acre Lane, Moore, Warrington.

Councillor A. T. Jameson, 24 Riley Drive, Runcorn.

Councillor L. JONES, 79 Moughland Lane, Runcorn.

Councillor A. PARR, 30 Albert Street, Runcorn.

Councillor Mrs. M. B. SHERLOCK, 44 Moughland Lane, Runcorn.

Councillor S. WILLIAMS, 83 Boston Avenue, Runcorn.



*Co-opted Members:*

Dr. E. R. CARTER, 86 Moughland Lane, Runcorn (Local Medical Committee).  
Miss T. E. DUDLEY, 1 Weston Road, Runcorn (Nursing Aid Charities).  
Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Thornhill, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Warrington  
(Hospital Management Committee).  
Mr. A. WOOD, 3 Kenilworth Avenue, Runcorn (Education).  
Mrs. J. C. TURNER, 20 Holmfield Avenue, Runcorn (Old Peoples' Welfare  
Committee)  
Mr. J. HUNT, Mount Pleasant, Top Lane, Kingsley.  
Mrs. E. A. ROYLE, 8 Weston Crescent, Runcorn.  
Mrs. E. A. M. TOMLINSON, Edeyrn, 73 Victoria Road, Runcorn.

*Clerk to the Divisional Committee:*

Mr. T. J. LEWIS, Solicitor, Town Hall, RUNCORN

## STAFF OF THE DIVISIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Divisional Medical Officer:* Dr. F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
*Assistant County Medical Officers:* Dr. J. B. Dowler, M.B., Ch.B. (part-time);  
Dr. B. C. Thompson, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part-time).  
*Divisional Administrative Assistant:* Mr. W. R. Jones.  
*Area Mental Welfare Officer:* Mr. H. Holden.  
*Area Nursing Officer:* Miss K. Geal.  
*Matron, Day Nursery:* Mrs. M. Jones, S.R.N. *Domestic Help Supervisors:* Mrs.  
D. M. Shepherd; Mrs. H. Walker (part-time).  
*Occupational Therapist:* Miss S. V. Rigg.

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*Divisional Medical Office:* Tel No. Runcorn 2871/2 and 2449  
*Day Nursery, Okell Street, Runcorn:* Tel. No.: Runcorn 2461  
*Adult Training Centre, David Street, Northwich:* Tel. No.: Northwich 75100  
*Junior Training Centre, David Street, Northwich:* Tel. No.: Northwich 74398  
*Adult Training Centre, Coronation Road, Ellesmere Port:* Tel. No. Ellesmere  
Port 1512

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## DISTRICT NURSE/MIDWIVES

Daresbury	Mrs. J. M. Cunningham, Delph Cottage, Daresbury, Warrington	Moore 266
Frodsham	Mrs. A. V. Burke, 10 Kingsway, Frodsham, Warrington	Frodsham 2109
	Miss G. H. Langrell, 19 Clifton Crescent, Frodsham	Frodsham 2235
	Mrs. C. L. Ormsby, 10 Fountain Lane, Frodsham	Frodsham 2027.
Grappenhall	*Mrs. M. Rhodes, 27 St. Wilfred's Drive, Grappenhall, Warrington	Warrington 64176

Gt. Budworth	Mrs. E. Burgess, Dunkerry, Gibb Hill, Antrobus, Northwich	Comberbach 400
Halton	Mrs. F. R. Beesley, 47 Main Street, Halton, Runcorn	Runcorn 2597
Helsby	Mrs. N. E. Stewart, Thorns, Alvanley Road, Helsby, Warrington	Helsby 2143
Norley	Miss I. E. Belsham, Crabmill Lane, Norley, Warrington	Kingsley 265
Runcorn	*Mrs. F. Fowles, 36 Oxford Road, Runcorn	Runcorn 2849
	*Mrs. A. A. Marsh, 27 Perrin Avenue, Weston Point, Runcorn	Runcorn 3730
	*Mrs. E. L. Hartwell, 28 Alexandra Grove, Runcorn	Runcorn 4628
	*Mr. D. Hill, 8 Cynthia Road Runcorn	Runcorn 3137
Stockton Heath	*Miss W. Maher, 44 Whitfield Avenue, Bruche, Warrington	Warrington 31701
	*Miss V. E. O'Donnell, 104 Fairfield Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington	Warrington 64562
	*Mrs. O. Holbrook 86 Grappenhall Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington	Warrington 62996
Stretton	*Mrs. K. Newstead, 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton, Warrington	Warrington 64785

#### RELIEF NURSES

Frodsham	Mrs. B. Cartwright, 22 Fairways, Overton, Frodsham	Frodsham 3395
Grappenhall & Thelwall	Mrs. M. Craven, 30 Kildonan Road, Grappenhall, Warrington	Warrington 61725
	Mrs. J. A. Pownall, 8 Newlands Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington	Warrington 63905
Runcorn	Mrs. E. L. Ford, 45 Boston Avenue, Runcorn	Runcorn 4161

#### COUNTY MIDWIVES

Grappenhall	Miss E. Tinker, 30 Georges Crescent, Grappenhall, Warrington	Warrington 61975
	Mrs. H. Grace, 41 Springfield Avenue, Grappenhall, Warrington	Warrington 62301
Runcorn	Miss E. M. Grice, 40 Norman Road, Runcorn	Runcorn 3602
	Miss P. Noon, 73 Oxford Rd., Runcorn	Runcorn 2881
	Mrs. P. Farrell, 134 Heath Road South, Weston	Runcorn 3707
	Miss N. A. I. Turner, 60 Roland Ave., Runcorn	Runcorn 5459
	Mrs. M. A. Faulkner, 6 Leinster Gdns., Runcorn	Runcorn 5659
Stockton Heath	Mrs. J. M. Arthur, 37 West Avenue, Stockton Heath, Warrington	Warrington 61674

\* Indicates District Nurse only.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRES AND CLINICS

Ministry Foods are sold at each of the Child Welfare Clinic Sessions listed below, and at the following Centres:

Post Office, Appleton.

Post Office, Manley

Post Office, Norley

Post Office, Sutton Weaver

Mrs. Dutton's Shop, Russell Road,  
Weston Point

Post Office, Weston

FRODSHAM C.W.C., The Rock, Frodsham.

*Health Visitor:* Miss J. Harper, Tel.: Frodsham 2388.

*Dentist:* Miss D. Coates. Tel.: Frodsham 2388.

Dental Clinic	—	
Child Welfare Clinic	—	2nd and 4th Tuesdays, p.m.
Eye Clinic	—	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, a.m.
Screening Clinic	—	1st and 3rd Fridays, p.m.
Young Children's	—	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, p.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	—	Thursdays, a.m.
Handicapped Persons' Club	—	1st and 3rd Thursdays, p.m.
Preparation Class	—	Wednesdays, p.m.
Immunisation Clinic	—	4th Fridays, a.m.
Play Group for Mentally Handicapped Children	—	2nd and 4th Thursdays, p.m.

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GRAPPENHALL C.W.C., Springfield Avenue, Grappenhall.

*Health Visitor:* Miss M. Lea. Tel.: Warrington 61488

*Dentist:* Mr. T. P. Dykes. Tel.: Warrington 61489.

Ante-Natal Clinic	—	Wednesdays, p.m.
Cervical Cytology Clinic	—	3rd Tuesdays, a.m. (by arrangements)
Immunisation Clinic	—	1st Fridays, p.m.
Child Welfare Clinic	—	Thursdays, p.m.
Preparation Class	—	Alternate Wednesdays, p.m.
Young Children's Clinic	—	4th Fridays, a.m.
Screening Clinic	—	2nd and 4th Fridays, p.m.
Eye Clinic	—	3rd Wednesdays, a.m.
Dental Clinic		

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HELSBY Clinic, Methodist Church Hall, Helsby

*Health Visitor:* Mrs. V. E. Fletcher

Child Welfare Clinic	—	1st and 3rd Tuesdays p.m.
Immunisation Clinic	—	4th Fridays, p.m.



KINGSLEY Clinic, Hurst Methodist Church Hall, Kingsley

*Health Visitor:* Mrs. V. E. Fletcher

Child Welfare Clinic — 2nd Wednesdays, p.m.

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RUNCORN C.W.C., 34 Halton Road, Runcorn

*Health Visitors:* Miss E. O'Connor, Miss C. V. Kilcullen. Tel.: Runcorn 2871/2.

Child Welfare Clinic — Wednesdays a.m. and p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic — Thursdays a.m.

Screening Clinic — 4th Tuesdays, p.m.

Immunisation Clinic — 2nd Fridays, p.m.

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RUNCORN C.W.C., Thorn Road, Grange N.U., Runcorn

*Health Visitors:* Mrs. D. Govan, Miss M. R. Sandford. Tel.: Runcorn 4495.

*Dentist:* Miss D. Coates. Tel.: Runcorn 4496.

Dental Clinic —

Screening Clinic — 2nd Mondays p.m.

Child Welfare Clinic — Thursdays, p.m.

Young Children's  
Clinic — 3rd Fridays a.m.

Preparation Class — Fridays, p.m.

Eye Clinic — Tuesdays, p.m.

Cervical Cytology  
Clinic — 4th Tuesdays, p.m. (by arrangement)

Midwives Ante-Natal  
Clinic — Wednesdays, p.m.

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STOCKTON HEATH C.W.C., 65 Whitefield Road, Stockton Heath.

*Health Visitors:* Miss M. Newbold, Mrs. M. G. McManamin. Tel. Warrington 62025.

*Dentist:* Miss P. Gass. Tel.: Warrington 62025.

Dental Clinic —

Child Welfare Clinic — Mondays, p.m.

Young Children's  
Clinic — 1st Friday, a.m.

Screening Clinic — as required

Eye Clinic — 4th Tuesdays, p.m.

Preparation Class — Fridays, p.m.

Immunisation Clinic — 3rd Fridays, a.m.

Handicapped Persons'  
Club — 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, p.m.

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WESTON POINT CLINIC, Russell Road Hall, Weston Point

*Health Visitor:* Miss A. Davies

Child Welfare Clinic — 1st and 3rd Mondays, p.m.



## CHILD WELFARE CLINIC ATTENDANCES

The Sheldon report on "Child Welfare Centres" published in 1967 made the following principal recommendations:—

- (1) Infants should have a routine medical examination on first attending the clinic, again at six months and at about the time of each birthday until the fourth. These routine examinations should coincide with tests for specific handicaps.
- (2) The Doctor and Health Visitor must continue to advise on infant nutrition and hygiene.
- (3) Every effort should be made to develop Health Education activities within the centre.
- (4) Doctors working in the centres require an understanding of the psychology of the family and should be able to give the time to listen to the anxieties of parents
- (5) The Doctor and Health Visitor have a unique part to play in the detection and management of emotional illness and in the counselling of parents of handicapped children.

As can be seen from the above, there will be a change in the function of the Child Welfare Clinic with a decrease in the routine weighing of healthy babies, and an increasing move to the prevention and early detection of emotional and physical abnormalities of the child and the family.

This change is already being seen in the drop in the number of visits of children under the age of 12 months to the Child Welfare Clinics. Unfortunately there has been a decrease in the number of young children seen, but this is largely due to the shortages of suitably trained medical staff. In this connection it is pleasing to note that the County Health Department has held its first course on Developmental Paediatrics for Clinic Doctors.

The tables below give details of the attendances and Welfare Food Sales at the various Child Welfare Clinics held in the Division.

	NEW CASES		TOTAL ATTENDANCES					
	0—1 year		0—1 year		1—2 years		2—5 years	
	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968
Frodsham ....	113	118	706	591	148	71	86	70
Grappenhall ....	168	139	1,865	1,594	209	111	158	64
Helsby ....	96	102	883	808	63	199	18	35
Kingsley ....	22	25	101	139	38	26	15	6
Runcorn ....	283	291	1,974	2,134	236	252	306	201
Runcorn-Grange N.U. ....	151	152	1,177	923	234	194	294	254
Stockton Heath	203	183	1,705	1,661	186	103	106	78
Weston Point ....	91	54	469	301	34	53	10	6
TOTALS:	1,127	1,064	8,880	8,151	1,148	1,009	993	714

WELFARE FOODS

Year	Value of Sales Proprietary Foods sold only at Clinics	National Dried Milk (tins)	Orange Juice (bottles)	Cod Liver Oil (bottles)	A. & D. Tablets (packets)
1968	£2,030	4,611	13,470	639	1,334
1967	£2,383	5,597	13,659	820	1,480
1966	£2,531	8,831	14,247	832	1,456
1965	£2,235	11,478	14,575	931	1,554

As can be seen the fall in the sales of Welfare Foods continued, and it is pleasing to note that the County Health Committee decided that the sale of Proprietary Foods should cease. It is hoped that the sale of “National” Welfare Foods will be completely taken over by voluntary agencies during the coming year.

DAY NURSERY, OKELL STREET—RUNCORN

Average Daily Attendance	Average No. Attending		Total Attendances	
	0—2 years	2—5 years	0—2 years	2—5 years
33	9	24	2,259	5,888

The Nursery is open from 7.45 a.m. to 5.0 p.m. Monday to Friday.

It is a Training Nursery preparing students to take the N.N.E.B. examination. During the year two students were in training, one in her first year and one in her second year. Students are exchanged with a Nursery School in Chester to provide them with experience in baby care. The student who took her examination in June was successful, and is now employed as a Nursery Nurse in the Dunsdale Residential Nursery at Frodsham.

At the 31st December, 1968, the number of children on the register was 45. There were 35 priority children, 30 of these paying reduced fees, as follows:

- 13 Children of unmarried mothers;
- 5 Children of Mothers separated from their husbands;
- 2 Children of Mothers who are ill;
- 3 Mentally Handicapped Children;
- 4 Children referred by the Area Children's Officer as being in need of care;
- 2 Children with speech defects;
- 2 Children whose Mothers are student teachers;
- 2 Children whose Mothers are nurses;
- 2 Children whose Mothers are teachers.

The Nursery continues to have for short stays a number of children whose Mothers are ill, having another baby, or where the child has behaviour problems.

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## CERVICAL SMEAR CLINICS

The numbers attending the clinics were disappointing. However, the possibility of introducing a comprehensive service for the whole of the female population of the County over 21 years of age, employing the Council's computer in much the same way as in the very successful immunisation scheme, is being actively pursued by the County Health Department. This may well prove to be a turning point in this service.

	<i>Grappenhall Clinic</i>		<i>Grange Clinic, Runcorn</i>	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
No. of Sessions held: ....	19	7	23	10
No. of new patients who attended ....	302	98	417	185
Result of examination:—				
(a) Nothing abnormal	301	98	414	184
(b) For further inves- tigation ....	1	—	3	1
(c) No. in (b) found positive ....	1	—	1	1

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The tables below give details of the various infectious diseases notified in each council area within the division during 1967 and 1968:

	1967		1968	
	RUNCORN URBAN	RUNCORN RURAL	RUNCORN URBAN	RUNCORN RURAL
Dysentery ....	—	1	—	1
Measles ....	304	486	374	118
Pneumonia, Influenzal ....	—	—	—	7
Scarlet Fever ....	49	31	51	15
Respiratory Tuberculosis ....	3	5	2	3
Non-Pulmonary Tubercu- losis ....	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	14	17	5	8
Food Poisoning ....	—	—	—	—
Encaphalitis ....	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ....	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ....	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia, Influenzal and acute Lobar ....	—	—	—	—



## Tuberculosis

Details are given below of the numbers of persons on the Tuberculosis Register. During 1968 it was possible to carry out, in co-operation with the Chest Physician at Warrington, a review of the Register, hence the numbers "removed" in the Rural District:

	RUNCORN URBAN		RUNCORN RURAL	
	<i>R.</i>	<i>N.R.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>N.R.</i>
New cases notified (including transfers)....	2	—	2	—
Deaths: .....	1	—	6	—
Recovered: .....	3	—	57	10
Other Removals from Register (left District, etc.)	—	—	14	1
No. on Register at the end of 1967 .....	98	5	154	37
No. on Register at the end of 1968 .....	96	5	79	26

*R*—Respiratory.

*N.R.*—Non-Respiratory.

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

During the year, Measles vaccine became available and was offered to children between 1 and 7 years of age. Unfortunately this, combined with other administrative problems, made it impossible to complete the school immunisation programme. However, at the time of writing, substantial progress has been made in bringing this programme up to date.

This is the first full year that the computer immunisation scheme was fully operative in the Division, and it can be seen that it has had a substantial effect in improving the primary protection of children.

The increase in primary vaccination against Smallpox is almost certainly the result of the implementation of this Scheme.

The programme of immunisation procedure has recently been amended and now includes Measles vaccination and it is, therefore, hoped that as parents receive notifications for their children to attend for Measles vaccination, the percentage protected against this disease, which does have serious complications, will rise during 1969.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Smallpox Vaccination

	Primary		Booster	
	1967	1968	1967	1968
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough and Tetanus ....	1,241	1,350	723	1,048
Diphtheria/Tetanus ....	7	9	1,606	515
Tetanus ....	69	41	78	—
Poliomyelitis—Sabin Vaccine	1,264	1,342	1,487	849
—Salk Vaccine....	—	—	—	—
Smallpox				
Under 1 year ....	43	12	—	—
1—5 years ....	406	954	12	—
School children ....	67	68	20	19
TOTAL ....	3,097	3,776	3,926	2,431
MEASLES: ....	—	1,313	—	—

Total No. of Protective Procedures carried out for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Polio and Smallpox

	Total by G.P.'s	Total by Local Health Authority	Total
1967	2,927	4,096	7,023
1968	3,697	2,510	6,207

B.C.G. VACCINATION

It was possible to bring the B.C.G. programme up to date during the year, and it is pleasing to note the high percentage of parents consenting to their children being vaccinated. This was a matter which received special attention during the year.

Year	Children Eligible	Percentage of Parents consenting	Percentage Abs. for Tests	Percentage Tuberculin Positive	Percentage Tuberculin Neg. & Vacc.
1963	854	83	6	19	81
1964	798	83	15	17	83
1965	879	88	12	10	90
1966	845	89	6	12	88
1967	656	74	4	13	87
1968	999	92	11	9	91

## SERVICES FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

I would like to express my appreciation to the W.R.V.S. for organising the Social and Handicraft sessions for the physically handicapped in Frodsham and Stockton Heath. At Stockton Heath these sessions are held on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons and at Frodsham, on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday afternoons.

The vacancy for an occupational therapist remained unfilled at the end of the year and no developments took place in the social provisions for the physically handicapped.

### Car Badges for the Disabled Drivers

Persons who are seriously handicapped and can only walk a very limited distance are eligible to receive, on application, two stick-on car badges identifying them as physically handicapped. This scheme was introduced by the Ministry of Health in an effort to assist such drivers to receive extra consideration when parking, but it must be remembered that possession of the badges does not confirm any legal rights whatsoever.

Four applications were received during the year.

### Adaptations to Property

The undermentioned adaptations to property have been carried out during 1968:

<i>Adaptations, etc</i>	<i>Approx. cost</i>		
	£	s.	d.
(1) Provision of handrails .....	10	0	0
(2) Provision of formica-covered bath seat and chrome grip rail .....	14	10	0
(3) Fitting bath seat with formica finish .....	14	5	0
(4) Ramp to rear door with handrails and toe-board .....	28	0	0
(5) Standard type bath seat .....	12	10	0
(6) Provision of ramp .....	3	10	0
(7) Provision of garden path .....	13	0	0
(8) Provision of bath seat and G.P. grip rail .....	14	5	0
(9) Resiting bath, bedroom power point, fixing metal handrails to rear door....	45	10	0
(10) Provision of ramp and sliding door .....	45	10	0

In each case the County Council has paid the full cost of the adaptation.



## Care and After-Care

Nursing equipment and aids for the sick and handicapped are available on loan, free of charge, from the Divisional Medical Office, providing a Doctor or some other suitably qualified person states that the items are required.

A total of 348 items were loaned to 295 patients during the year.

## Convalescent Treatment

Four patients were sent for convalescent treatment during 1968.

## DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Number of Domestic Helps employed at end of year:

(a) Whole-time—Nil; (b) Part-time—105; (c) Equivalent whole-time of (b)—33.

Classification of cases and hours worked:

		1967		1968	
		<i>Cases</i>	<i>Hours worked</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Hours worked</i>
Aged and Infirm	....	317	47,526	402	52,299
Others	....	89	14,362	76	14,281
Confinements	....	63	1,890	66	1,980

	1967	1968
Contributions from cases—	<u>£3,809</u>	<u>£4,393</u>

During 1968 there was an increase of 16% in the number of cases and a 7½% increase in the hours provided, compared with the previous year. The bulk of the additional hours was given to the over-65 ages group, and to cases of persons under 65 years of age discharged from hospital after major operations.

The “Good Neighbour” Scheme has been found to be of great value in selected cases, and there have been 7 “Good Neighbours” working during the year.



## CHIROPODY SERVICE

There was little significant change in the demand for the service, details of which are given below:

	<i>Over 65</i>				<i>Physically Handicapped</i>			
	<i>No. of Patients</i>		<i>No. of Treatments</i>		<i>No. of Patients</i>		<i>No. of Treatments</i>	
	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968	1967	1968
Chiropodist's Surgery .....	440	447	2,382	2,477	—	—	—	—
Home of Patients .....	356	386	1,784	1,942	7	7	58	68

	1967	1968
No. of cases in which County Council paid full fees	687	708
No. of cases in which County Council paid half fees	116	132

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Mental Illness continues to form the larger part of the work of the staff of the Mental Health Department. Despite a member of the staff being seconded on a Training Course and there being staff changes, the Service has managed to meet the many demands made on it. An excellent liaison exists between Consultant Psychiatrists, General Practitioners, and staff of the other Health and Social Services.

Statutory duties are laid on the Mental Welfare Officer under the Mental Health Act, 1959, and in order to comply with these duties, a 24-hour service, operated by a rota system for out-of-office hours, week-ends, Bank Holidays, etc. is provided.

A Therapeutic Psychiatric Social Club is held at Frodsham fortnightly on Monday evenings, and one of the Mental Welfare Officers attends.

The number of children commencing attendance at Junior Training Centres has continued to increase but for the first time there is a waiting list for admission to the Special Care Unit at the Northwich Junior Training Centre.

During the year a group of parents and other voluntary helpers in Frodsham formed a Club which meets at the Frodsham Clinic Centre. The object of the Club is to provide a meeting point for the parents of Mentally Handicapped Children under the age of 5 where they can discuss problems which they have in common and arrange a programme of expert speakers. Another group of parents and helpers formed a Social Club for Mentally Handicapped Children, and this meets weekly at St. Andrew's Hall, Runcorn. Both these groups fill very real needs felt by parents and their children.

The majority of children in the Division attend the Northwich Junior Training Centre and a small number under five years of age attend The Rowans, Altrincham—a Nursery Centre run by the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

Further expansion at the Northwich Adult Training Centre will not be possible until the Divisional Health Office, which is temporarily situated at the Centre, is moved to the new offices in Northwich town centre. As a result, adult trainees from the Runcorn, Frodsham and Helsby areas attend the Ellesmere Port Adult Training Centre.

### Attendances at Training Centres

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ellesmere Port Adult Training Centre ....	7	2	9
Northwich Adult Training Centre ....	5	8	13
Northwich Junior Training Centre ....	20	11	31
Altrincham Adult Training Centre ....	3	1	4
Altrincham Junior Training Centre/The Rowans ....	6	1	7
<b>TOTALS</b> ....	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>64</b>

Case discussions are held at regular intervals between the Training Centre staff, Mental Welfare Officers, and Assistant County Medical Officers and these discussions are of great help in assessing social, physical and emotional needs of trainees and their families.

Towards the end of the year the Divisional Health Committee agreed to sponsor the formation of a local branch of the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

Short Term Care, to allow parents to have a holiday or because of family illness, was provided in seven cases.



